authorised construction of additional rooms particularly in Sarojini Nagar for the purpose of sub-letting;

(b) whether Government propose to demolish such construction; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action against Government servants found guilty on that score?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Sabha.

Nationalisation of Rivers

166. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering nationalisaton of rivers in the country;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to link the rivers of southern peninsula to help solve the acute water scarcity in some region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) National Water Development Agency has a programme for studying inter-basin transfer of water of the peninsular rivers and preparation of feasibility reports of 17 water transfer links. The Agency has completed pre-feasibility reports on 7 such water transfer links. The implementation of links would increase the irrigation facilities in the drought prone areas.

Target for production of steel

167. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the production of steel during 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(b) what was the achievement during 1990-91;

(c) what were the reasons for not fulfilling the targets; and

(d) the steps taken to achieve the target set for 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Expected production of finished steel in the two years is given below:

(Million tonnes)

	Finished Steel
1990-91	14·4
1991-92	14·5

(b) Production of finished steel in 1990-91 was 13.4 million tonnes.

(c) In 1990-91, the shortfall in SAIL plants was mainly due to following reasons:—

(1) Inadequate receipts of indigenous coking coal, both in terms of quality and quantity.

(2) Low stocks and fluctuating supplies of grade-wise coking coal resulted in frequent changes in charge coal blend.

(3) On account of above two factors there was an estimated production loss in SAIL plants of about 4.00 lakh tonnes in 1990-91 of crude steel.

(4) There was a shortage of middlings for power plants, particularly at Bokaro. In addition, there was inadequate power supply from Utilities, particularly from DVC Bokaro. On this account there was an estimated production loss of about 1.8 lakh tonnes in 1990-91 of saleable steel.

At Visakhapatnam Steel Plant the Commissioned units are still in the process of stabilisation.

(d) Steps being taken to achieve the targets set for SAIL plants for 1991-92 are mainly:—

(i) Ensure adequate availability of inputs of right quality in the required quantity;

(ii) Improved maintenance of plant and equipment;

(iii) Augment the captive power generation.

Cooperative Credit Societies

168. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the percentage of borrowing Members of cooperative societies and share of co-operatives in agricultural credit have gone down; and

(b)) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to revitalise co-operative credit societies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLAY RAMACHANDRAN). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Poor resource base, low member participation, high percentage of overdues and unviable lending operations are the chief causes for the declining role of credit cooperatives in the disimbursement of agricultural credit. The Agricultural Credit Review Committee which examined the reasons for the weaknesses in credit cooperatives, recommended that an action programme be drawn up for each Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society for making it viable.

Accordingly, a Business Development Planning Programme has been initiated for revitalisation of Primary Agricultural Cooperatives, which aims at increasing member participation, improving deposit mobilisation and increasing the overall business of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies all over the country.

National Cooperative Bank

169. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for setting up a national cooperative bank; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies has received a proposal for registration of National Cooperative Bank of India under Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 1984 and the Rules thereunder from National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI), the Chief Promoters. The proposal is for setting up of a cooperative bank at National level with the membership of state level|national level Apex Cooperatives Bank and urban co-operative Banks. The objective of the proposed bank is to serve as balancing centre for cooperative banking institutions in the country by mobilising surplus funds from the cooperative sector and to invest them in other sectors of cooperatives. As the proposal relates to setting up of a bank, the approval of Reserve Bank of India has been sought.

Comprehensives Agricultural Policy

170. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating a comprehensive agricultural policy resolution;

(b) if so, what are the main features thereof; and